

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3569

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9225

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: LEBANESE PRESS COMMENTS ON EGYPT

REF: BEIRUT 8239; CAIRO 1988

1. AN NAHAR PUBLISHED ON AUG 2 AND 3 TWO-PART ARTICLE BY FUAD MATTAR ON LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF LIBYAN LONG MARCH. COINCIDENTALLY WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE AL HAWADESS WHICH ALSO APPEARED AUG 2 HAS FIRST OF SERIES OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY ITS PUBLISHER SELIM LAWZI GIVING MEMOIRS OF FORMER EGYPTIAN PRES NAGUIB AS TOLD TO LAWZI DURING LONG SERIES RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH NEGUIB.

2. WE ARE POUCHING BOTH AN NAHAR AND HAWADESS ARTICLES TO USINT CAIRO AND NEA/EGY. SUMMARY OF MATTAR ARTICLES BEING SENT SEPTEL.

3. BOTH ARTICLES, IN DIFFERENT WAYS, TEND REINFORCE POSITION OF SADAT WHO PORTRAYED AS MODERATE, REASONED, CONFIDENTIAL

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HUMANE MAN IN CONTRAST TO QADHAFI (MATTAR ARTICLES) AND

NASSER (LAWZI ARTICLES). IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES HERE SUPPORTING SADAT COMES SO CLOSELY ON HEELS OF ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS BY HEYKAL IN PARIS WHICH TAKE CONTRARY VIEW. IN OPINION LOCAL EGYPT-WATCHERS THERE IS DOUBLE POWER STRUGGLE GOING ON, ONE BETWEEN QADHAFI VIEW AND THAT OF SADAT ON UNION AND ANOTHER BETWEEN SADAT AND HIS INTERNAL OPPOSITION. TWO ARE OBVIOUSLY CLOSELY INTERLINKED. HEYKAL CONSIDERED BY OBSERVERS HERE AS CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH QADHAFI, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HEYKAL UNHAPPINESS WITH SADAT AND NEED FOR SUPPORT AND EVEN PROTECTION OF QADHAFI IN STRUGGLE WITH SADAT. LOCAL OBSERVERS INCLINED THINK SADAT WILL PREVAIL ON BOTH FRONTS BUT STRENGTH OF QADHAFI WITHIN EGYPT, BASED ON HIS RATHER SIMPLISTIC APPEAL PLUS SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO UNHAPPY WITH SADAT FOR OTHER REASONS, IS SUCH THAT SADAT MUST MOVE CAUTIOUSLY AND CONTINUE MAKE SMALL CONCESSIONS AND PAY LIP SERVICE TO IDEA OF UNITY.
BUFFUM

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